

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed this Application in light of the Office Action mailed August 14, 2006. Claims 1, 3-20, and 22-28 are pending in this Application and Claims 1, 3-20 and 22-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 2 and 21 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 20, 22 and 24 have been amended to further define various features of Applicants' invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 5-15, 18, 20, 24 and 27-28 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,996,450 issued to Edward J. Suttle (*"Suttle"*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,970,639 issued to John Mark McGrath (*"McGrath"*).

Claims 3, 4, 22-23 and 25-26 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of *Suttle* and *McGrath*, as applied to claim 1, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,076,080 issued to William F. Morscheck (*"Morscheck"*).

Claims 16-17 and 19 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Suttle*.

Suttle discloses an automated manufacturing system and method for manufacturing photomasks based on information provided by a customer. (Col. 5, lines 40-44). The method and system includes software for processing photomask design data, where the software is configured to extract information from customer design data and arrange such data in a format suitable for performing photomask manufacturing tasks. (Col. 5, lines 57-61).

McGrath discloses an editing system for editing source content, such as audio or video. The system includes source metadata associated with the source content, template metadata defining a certain style for content, and a processing unit configured to apply the template to the source content by comparing the source metadata with the template metadata in order to arrange portions of the source content to produce an edited content sequence. (Col. 1, lines 29-39).

Claim 1, as amended, recites a method for order entry and processing in the manufacturing of a photomask component, comprising “automatically selecting a template including customer specifications based on at least one criteria related to the manufacture of the photomask component.”

Claim 20, as amended, recites a system for electronic order entry and automatic processing of a photomask component order comprising “executable instructions encoded in the computer-readable medium, the executable instructions, operable to direct a computer to ... select a template including customer specifications based on at least one criteria related to the manufacture of the photomask component.”

Claim 24, as amended, recites a method of manufacturing a photomask component, comprising “automatically selecting a template including customer specifications based on at least one criteria related to the manufacture of the photomask component indicated in the product order information file.”

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references fail to disclose, teach or suggest each and every element of Applicants’ invention. For example, the cited references fail to disclose, teach or suggest a method for order entry and processing in the manufacturing of a photomask component, comprising “automatically selecting a template including customer specifications based on at least one criteria *related to the manufacture of the photomask component*,” as recited by amended Claim 1. (emphasis added). The cited references also fail to disclose, teach or suggest a system for electronic order entry and automatic processing of a photomask component order comprising “executable instructions encoded in the computer-readable medium, the executable instructions, operable to direct a computer to ... select a template including customer specifications based on at least one criteria *related to the manufacture of the photomask component*,” as recited by amended Claim 20. (emphasis added). Finally, the cited references fail to disclose, teach or suggest a method of manufacturing a photomask component, comprising “automatically selecting a template including customer specifications based on at least one criteria *related to the manufacture of the photomask*

component indicated in the product order information file,” as recited by amended Claim 24. (emphasis added).

Given that Claims 3-19 depend from Claim 1, Claims 22 and 23 depend from Claim 20, and Claims 25-28 depend from Claim 24, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 3-19, 22, 23 and 25-28 are allowable. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and allow Claims 1, 3-20, and 22-28, as amended.

CONCLUSION

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's careful review of the Application. Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections and full allowance of Claims 1, 3-20 and 22-28, as amended.

Applicants believe there are no fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P in order to effectuate this filing.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2581.

Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula D. Heyman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Date: November 13, 2006

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